



A Mosaic is a blend of different things all coming together to make one singular thing, all the while retaining their unique individual qualities. The church is a mosaic, made up of different people from all walks of life, ethnicities, cultures and financial backgrounds. When this blending of ethnicities happens, there tends to be tension, confusion and downright hatred. This series is all about becoming the Ethnic Mosaic that Christ desires and envisioned for us. At ACAC, we have a host of people that come in from different places and ethnic backgrounds. This series is about getting these different teens to connect, drop their biases and become the body of Christ they were meant to become. We will take 5 weeks to walk through these ideas together. Here's the breakdown of the weeks: 1. Intentionality- We must be intentional about connecting with others, making it a point to befriend those different from ourselves. 2. Dropping Stereotypes- We all have a stereotypical lens we have when we come to others (especially others of different ethnicities), so we must drop these. 3. Being a People, Not a Clique We neglect hanging with others different from us because of our comfort zones and liking our cliques too much because they are just like us and don't challenge us to think differently. 4. Learning From Diversity- We can learn from one another's differences. We can gain new knowledge from the cultures and backgrounds of those with different ethnicities. 5. A Glimpse of Heaven- When we come together as a mosaic, we are doing exactly what God has in mind, so much so that heaven will look like a mosaic (not a melting pot).

Intentionality

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

A mosaic is a beautiful painting made up of tons of different things, or even people. There are some mosaics made out of many different things! (SHOW MOSAIC VIDEO) When we come together, and blend right we can look sweet like that, or taste good like a McFlurry! Church/ Youth Group is the same way! We need to blend different types of people, different types of music, different types of cultures and when we blend them all together, it tastes better! In fact, God likes this picture better (Revelation 5:9)

I. Be Intentional

Ephesians 3:6; Phil. 2:3-4

When we do things with “our group” or people “like us” we are hindering what God would desire for us to do. Just like a McFlurry needs to be made on purpose, we need to blend with each other to make the heavenly mosaic on purpose. We can’t just throw different people together and make them blend...the people in that group have to work at purposefully blending together. Just like you can’t throw burgers and a milkshake in a blender together or throw the dice out on the board and expect a beautiful picture...it takes work and intentionality!

Discussion:

- What are your favorite “blended” things? (i.e. McFlurries, ice cream flavors, candies, shows, whatever)
- Why do you think we have to be intentional about blending ourselves?
- How have you seen how blending different people (or things) together has made something beautiful?

Explanation:

1 Cor. 9:19-22- 1. You must surrender your preferences (Pg. 157 Ethnic Blends) 2. You Must extend yourself to others (those like you and those unlike you) (Pg. 158-162 Ethnic Blends) 3. You must care more for others

- What would it look like for you to surrender your preferences here at Youth Group?
- How can you care more for others who are different from you?
- How well do you purposefully try to get to know those different from yourself? Why do you think that is?

Application:

- READ Ephesians 3:6; Phil. 2:3-4- How can you apply these verse to your life?
- Challenge: have the kids think about who they can befriend who is culturally different from them

Dropping Stereotypes

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

I. Dropping Stereotypes

The apostle Paul continually called the church to see ourselves as equal, mutually bound-together slaves of Christ and servants of one another. Through our faith in Christ, we overcome the boundaries that separate people—whether race, gender, or class. Paul wrote, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

When we’re “in Christ,”

In order for us to be an ethnic mosaic, we must drop these stereotypes...but how? So what can we unify around? A Christ-follower’s identity is wrapped up in “Christ first.” If we see our identity as Christ-first, we hold on to what we have in common and leave room to appreciate our differences. . . . This isn’t easy. Our challenge is to build fellowship among and between male, female, slave, free, prep, metal-head, Presbyterian, Baptist, old, and young. We believe the breakthrough begins by seeing our fellow followers through a Christ-first lens.

Discussion:

We all have stereotypes for different people. We have ideas of what that person is like without even knowing them...simply because of their skin color or ethnic background.

- What’s one stereotype you are labeled with?
- What’s a stereotype you’ve labeled others with? LEADERS: Make sure to facilitate this well!
- Why did you get stereotyped? Why did you place that stereotype on someone else?

Explanation:

Sometimes, we hold stereotypes because of other people’s opinions

- Are you constantly worried about what others think of you? Do you hold true what they hold true?
- Have you ever judged an entire group of people based off of one interaction with someone from that particular group?
- How can we begin to think differently about people of a different background than us?

Application:

Knowing why we make these “stereotypes” helps us to be able to eliminate them. In order to really know what a person is like, we have to be willing to step out and know them. Challenge the teens to take the person they were thinking about last week and actually seek to know them.

Being a People

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

I. Being a People, Not a Clique

John 4:7-26

Jesus hung with a lot of people that most of his culture wouldn't hang out with. One such occasion happens in John 4:7-26. In Jesus' culture, women were looked down upon, as were Samaritans. This was a double trouble for Jesus. Not to mention or bad past. Jesus style ministry breaks down these "boundaries" and goes straight to people's hearts. It didn't matter her cultural background, it didn't matter she was a woman and it didn't matter that she was a sinner. He went to her and spoke to her heart and shared who He was and what he was about. We talked about getting out and meeting people, being intentional about this whole ethnic thing, we even talked about how important it is to understand why we have stereotypes, here we see Jesus in action working with people un-like himself. In fact his whole coming to earth was hanging out with people wholly un-like himself! If he refused to do that, we wouldn't have had Him as our savior. Jesus belongs to all and we need to be people who are an ethnic mosaic!

Discussion:

- Why do you think "birds of a feather flock together"?
- What makes it hard to step out and break the clique way of life?
- Why do you think Jesus stepped out of his boundaries and talked to the woman at the well?

Explanation:

This is not just about racism, but it's also a prejudice against all people different from you. As we saw last week, we are dedicated to people who are like us because its comfortable and our friends have more say in our lives than anyone else. It could be the kid like my Lewis in your school, someone who needs a friend (like the lady at the well).

- Who are some people who need a friend?
- Why do you think it's important to be a blended mosaic made of different people?

Application:

Other people in our school who are not like us are not people we necessarily need to shy away from. We don't need cliques...especially at church! We need to be a body, a unit of people who come together and make an ethnic Mosaic! **Challenge** the teens to be more like Jesus in their schools, being willing to be with others, even if they are different from themselves. ASK: How can we here at ACAC become more of a community and less of a clique?

Learning from Diversity

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

I. Learning From Diversity

Acts 10:24-33

Peter was a good Jewish boy...he didn't eat anything he wasn't supposed to, nor did he hang out with the wrong crowd...he always did the right thing according to custom. One day God called him out to go against his culture and get to know a guy who was a different ethnicity than himself. This guy Cornelius ate pigs for dinner, had meats that Peter had never even smelled cooking in his house (because he wasn't supposed to) and God asked him to go hang out for a meal at this dude's house. Peter thought God was only for him and people like him, but he learned something new from this diverse encounter!

Discussion:

Being with different people from different walks of life can teach us tons about life!

- What would you like to learn from someone ethnically different from yourself?
- Why do we sometimes fear those who are different from us?
- Why do you think (or not think) that learning from others is important?

Explanation:

We can learn how to worship God different, we can learn how to pray different, we can learn different foods (i.e. Marv and pork rinds!) we can learn new things about God from each other and we can learn a ton about ourselves from people different from us!

- Have you seen people from different backgrounds worshipping God? What did you notice was different?
- How do you think someone from a different background could teach you more about Jesus? (LEADERS: they will need help here)
- What did Peter learn about God in the Acts 10:24-33 passage?

Application:

Don't ever think your way is the only way, nor think that your way is the best way! Also, some of the ways we approach and see God are not the best way. Getting to know people of different ethnicities helps the mosaic of our understanding of God to grow as well! It's amazing what you can learn from someone who grew up completely different from you! Go ahead, try it...reflect on the songs that were played about God in 2 DIFFERENT ways.

A Glimpse of Heaven

Small Group Questions



Introduction:

I. A Glimpse of Heaven

Revelation 7:9-10

If you thought of heaven with people who look alike (just like you) you've had the wrong picture of heaven the whole time! Jesus died for the WHOLE world (1 John 2:2) ("For Christ died for sins, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but raised to life by the Spirit" 1 Peter 3:18)

Illustration- A mosaic picture made up of many different ethnic people.

Application- Without the presence of different types of people, we are not seeing the full picture! We are made to be together as one Body. We all have different gifts, talents and abilities that we need to work together! (1 Corinthians 12:12-14) We are all different the Bible says, but we are all linked by the same Spirit. Our picture of heaven must change. When we can work together as one big Ethnic Mosaic, the WORLD will notice! It doesn't happen in our world, people hate others of different ethnic backgrounds. People kill people of different ethnicities...these things STILL go on, so when we are doing what God requires of us and being heaven here on earth...people will notice and desire to know why!

Discussion:

-Did you know heaven was going to look like that? How does that change your idea on heaven?

-What surprises you about what Heaven will look like?

-Do you want a place here on earth that will be like heaven? If so, would you have pictured it like the passage above?

Explanation:

God desires all people to come together as one body and worship His name

- What causes divisions among people of different backgrounds?

- How can we all be a part of changing the face of our group when it comes to making a mosaic like heaven?

-Why do you think God wants heaven to be so mosaic-esque?

Application:

READ: Revelation 7:9-10; 1 John 2:2; 1 Peter 3:18

ASK: Now that you have this new knowledge of being and Ethnic Mosaic and we've challenged you to let go of stereotypes, be intentional and how important it is to be a body made up of different types of people, what are you going to do about it? What in your life needs to change?